

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 NAHA 00386 270022Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EB-08 ISO-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

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FM AMCONSUL NAHA

TO AMCONSUL FUKUOKA

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

SECSTATE WASH DC 2468

USDA/FAS QASH DC 037

UNCLAS NAHA 386

E.O. 111652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, JA

SUBJECT: AIRSHIPMENT OF US CATTLE TO NAHA

REF: A) NAHA 312 (NOTAL)

B) FUKUOKA 167 (NOTAL)

1. TAK AND COMPANY, INC. OF FUKUOKA HAS BEGUN AIRSHIPMENT OF LIVE CATTLE FROM US TO NAHA, FIRST SUCH SHIPMENT TO ARRIVE HERE. FIRST SHIPMENT OF 54 ANGUS FROM IOWA ARRIVED SEPT 19 VIA FLYING TIGERS. AFTER 15 DAY ANIMAL QUARANTINE IN NAHA, ENTIRE SHIPMENT WILL BE SENT TO HAKATA VIA RKK CARGO SHIP. TAK AND COMPANY PLANS SIMILAR SHIPMENTS FROM US TO HAKATA VIA NAHA ONCE A MONTH OCT TO DEC.

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2. MAIN, IF NOT ONLY, REASON FOR USING NAHA AS ENTREPOT IS THAT NAHA ANIMAL QUARANTINE STATION IS HARDLY BEING USED, WHEREAS ALL OTHER QUARANTINE STATIONS NEAR AIRPORTS IN JAPAN MAINLAND ARE BOOKED SOLID FOR MONTHS. NAHA STATION CAN HANDLE UP TO 150 HEADS OF CATTLE FOR EITHER FIVE-DAY QUARANTINE (BEFORE IMMEDIATE SLAUGHTER) OR 15-DAY QUARANTINE (BEFORE ONWARD LIVE SHIPMENT).

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORT SEPT 22, LOCAL CATTLE GROWERS AND UNCLASSIFIED

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PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT AND AGRICULTURAL COOP OFFICIALS ARE "SHOCKED" BY TAK AND COMPANY'S MOVE. THEY SEE IT AS MAJOR THREAT TO LOCAL CATTLE INDUSTRY, WHICH HAS BEGUN DIRECT SHIPMENT OF LOCALLY PRODUCED BEEF TO TOKYO MARKET DURING THREE MONTH PERIOD. THEY FEAR THAT OTHER IMPORTERS MAY ALSO USE SIMILAR IMPORTATION ROUTE TO SUPPLY OKINAWAN AS WELL AS MAINLAND MARKET. LOCAL CATTLE GROWERS ARE CALLING FOR

MEASURES TO PLUG THE GOJ LEGAL "LOOPHOLE" THAT PERMITS
LIVE CATTLE TO BE IMPORTED ON NON-QUOTA BASIS.

4. SAME LOCAL INTERESTS HAVE MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE THUS FAR FOR
TAK AND COMPANY TO HAVE ITS IMPORTED CATTLE SLAUGHTERED AT
"SHOKUNIKU CENTER", LOCAL FACILITY SUBSIDIZED BY GOVERNMENT

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BUT MANAGED BY AGRIC COOP. CONGENOFF HAS, ON BEHALF OF
TAK AND COMPANY, APPEALED TO VARIOUS PREFECTURAL OFFICIALS,
INCLUDING VICE GOVERNOR NOJIMA, FOR ACCESS TO SHOKUNIKU
CENTER, BUT RECEIVED NO RESPONSE THUS FAR. RATHER THAN
PRESSING THE ISSUE NOW AND RECEIVING ALMOST CERTAIN REFUSAL,
WE PLAN TO LET DUST SETTLE BEFORE MAKING ANOTHER APPEAR FOR
FAVORABLE ACTION.

KNOWLES

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